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**OFFICIAL**RESPONSE  
UNDER 37 CFR 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 1653  
PATENT APPLICATION**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the Application of:

LAFFEND ET AL.

CASE NO.: CR-9715-B

APPLICATION NO.: 08/849,404

GROUP ART UNIT: 1653

FILED: 22 MAY 1997

EXAMINER: BUGIASKY, G.

FOR: BIOCONVERSION OF A FERMENTABLE  
CARBON SOURCE TO 1,3-PROPANEDIOL  
BY A SINGLE MICROORGANISM**REPLY**Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This document is filed in response to the Final Office Action, mailed 28 January 2002. It is accompanied by a Petition to extend the period to respond by three months and the authorization to pay the appropriate fee. This Reply is filed outside the extended statutory period on the first business day after the response date. Additionally, a third RCE under the provisions for 37 CFR 1.114 is filed concurrently. Please enter the following comments.

**In the Claims:**

Cancel Claims 20 and 21.

**REMARKS**

Claims 20, 21 and 23-30 are pending in this RCE application. The relationship of this case to earlier filed applications in the same family has been added to the specification by previous amendment.